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UPDATE: Mike Pence sworn in as Indiana's 50th governor | POLL

By [Eric Bradner](#)

Posted January 14, 2013 at 10:33 a.m., updated January 14, 2013 at 11:26 p.m.

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(File Photo) Mike Pence address the crowd as his wife Karen looks on after he was sworn in as Indiana's 50th governor during a ceremony at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

INDIANAPOLIS — New Gov. [Mike Pence](#) pressed Hoosiers to “do your part” to improve the state’s quality of life during his inaugural address on Monday.

Using the Bible from President Benjamin Harrison’s inauguration, the Republican swore an oath of office administered by Indiana Chief Justice Brent Dickson on the west steps of the Indiana Statehouse.

The crowd of about 1,500 onlookers was bundled in hats and gloves as the temperature

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hovered around 20 degrees – which Pence noted as he wrapped up his speech.

“The time is now. The air is cold. So let’s get back inside and get to work,” he said.

He then went to his office for the first time as governor, where he and new Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann signed documents that officially installed them in their new positions.

Photo Galleries



Evansville's unknown graveyards



Rails leave trail in Poseyville, Ind.



SeaPerch robotics competition

Weather

Currently



Currently
36°
Mostly Cloudy
Wind: W 14mph

36-Hour

Your Photos

Today
37°
13°

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Poll

What letter grade would you give to Mitch Daniels for his 8 years as governor?

☐ A

☐ B

☐ C

☐ D

☐ F

☐ Incomplete — he owes us 8 years in the White House

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“Signed, sealed and delivered,” Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson said as the two finished. Their families and the supporters who had gathered in the office applauded while Pence grinned.

The crowd for Pence’s speech included political heavyweights such as former governors Mitch Daniels and Evan Bayh, and Pence devoted much of his speech to praising their work.

He also said it’s up to Indiana’s citizens to help reach his goal of taking the state, as he often said on the campaign trail and during his transition, “from good to great.”

“With so many Hoosiers hurting in this economy, we must meet this moment with resolve, determined to leave our state more prosperous, our children more prepared, and our communities and families stronger than ever before,” he said.

Pence skipped details on his agenda for the most part, saving those for a budget presentation planned for Tuesday and for his Jan. 22 State of the State speech, which will be delivered before the House and the Senate.

But he made a vague reference to his proposal to lower the state’s individual income tax from 3.4 percent to 3.06 percent.

“We must continue to live within our means, hold the line on spending, and let Hoosiers keep more of their hard-earned income,” Pence said.

He touched on his campaign pledge to support the expansion of Indiana’s education options, including charter schools and private school vouchers.

“There’s nothing that ails our schools that can’t be fixed by giving parents more choices and teachers more freedom to teach,” Pence said.

He also made a brief reference to the social issues for which he was known in Congress, but stayed away from on the gubernatorial campaign trail, save for a proposal to have Indiana regulations include a “family impact statement” judging whether those rules would promote marriage.

Calendar

JAN	FEB	FEB	BROWSE
31	1	2	
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	MORE

Thursday Night Light Open Mic Night Comedy 7:30 p.m.
Joke Factory Comedy Club

Thursday Night Lights Open Mic 7:30 p.m.
Joke Factory Comedy Club

Ballroom dance lessons 6:30 p.m.
Eagles FOE 427

Comedy 7 p.m.
Doc's Sports Bar

Live Music 9 p.m.
Crawdaddy's

[More Events »](#)

"Because our present challenges are not just economic in nature, we must also seek ways to strengthen the institutions that nurture the character of our people, most especially the family," Pence said.

Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker congratulated Pence but said he should stay away from meddling with family matters.

"We hope it will focus, as he pledged, on jobs and the economy and not on issues that will divide our state and put certain Hoosiers at a significant disadvantage," Parker said.

Ellspermann and Indiana Attorney General [Greg Zoeller](#), who was sworn in for his second term on Monday, also delivered brief remarks.

Zoeller's indicated he is lining up with Pence. He repeated Pence's "good to great" campaign line and said the state should do more to "push back" against federal government regulations and mandates.

On Monday afternoon, the new governor was just starting to move into his office. He had placed an old red phone on his desk, and he said it'll soon have a line connected to it for which only his wife, Karen, has the number.

He had displayed 14 photos with him, Karen, and their three children on a table behind his desk, plus photos of each of his children plus another one from election night 2000, when he first won his seat in Congress, on his desk. Also there was his father's war medal.

Two more boxes of old memorabilia, plus his college and law degrees, were set on the floor. The photographs of old politicians currently hanging from the walls of the governor's office, Pence said, were there when he showed up.

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11:15 a.m.**StayClassyEvansville2010 writes:**

And Indiana continues its slide back to the 19th century.

[Suggest removal](#)

Where are all the jobs that were supposed to flood in after Right To Work was passed?

[Reply to this post](#)January 14, 2013
11:37 a.m.**tinybob writes:**

I hope he is a better Governor than State Representative

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11:39 a.m.**tinybob writes:**in response to **tinybob**:

I hope he is a better Governor than State Representative

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I hope he is a better Governor THAN State Representative

January 14, 2013
11:56 a.m.**Itsthespending writes:**

If having balanced budgets and surpluses is going back to the 19th century, lets go.

[Suggest removal](#)[Reply to this post](#)January 14, 2013
12:49 p.m.**EVSCnative writes:**

It is when you desire a socialist economy like Obamas.

[Suggest removal](#)[Reply to this post](#)January 14, 2013
1:27 p.m.**ObamaWon2012 writes:**in response to **EVSCnative**:

It is when you desire a socialist economy like Obamas.

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Indiana is enjoying "redistribution of wealth" pretty well. Our state takes more

from the federal government than we pay in taxes, are you going to complain about all this "socialism" our state is participating in or are you going to keep pretending we live within our means when facts tell us otherwise? How about people in those donor states getting to "keep more of what they earn"?

January 14, 2013
4:47 p.m.

Aviator writes:

I'm not a Republican nor did I vote for him. But, I hope he does a great job and I wish him well. Good Luck Governor Pence!

[Suggest removal](#)[Reply to this post](#)

January 14, 2013
6:04 p.m.

Candle_Stick writes:

"do your part"

[Suggest removal](#)

Sounds like we are on our own again.

[Reply to this post](#)

Well I can tell him the same thing:

I'll do my part if you would only do yours.

January 14, 2013
8:46 p.m.

jones43 writes:

Regarding reducing state tax... don't necessarily want that when we aren't properly funding public education Our kids need to be prepared to compete against the world and they all need to be prepared.

[Suggest removal](#)[Reply to this post](#)

January 14, 2013
10:40 p.m.

navair writes:

in response to [jones43](#):

Regarding reducing state tax... don't necessarily want that when we aren't properly funding public education Our kids need to be prepared to compete against the world and they all need to be prepared.

[Suggest removal](#)[Reply to this post](#)

And money will do that??

January 14, 2013
11:26 p.m.

Proud2beDem writes:

Today inauguration, tomorrow decimation.

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